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MIXARD'S LINIMENT FOR COLDS.

Rumours of a Royal Engagement

WILL THE PRINCE WED A FOREIGNER AFTER ALL?

No doubt it is natural that when young and pretty princesses visit a country where are young and eligible princes the gossips should manifest interest in them. If any of the sons of the King and Queen are to marry into Royal Families (and in the case of the Prince of Wales, at any rate, a Royal bride, while not essential, would be preferable from several points of view) they could hardly do better than look in the direction of Sweden. Difference in religion or nationality that until lately was an enemy, bars the various princesses who might otherwise have been suitable. In the remaining countries princesses are few (writes a lady society correspondent of the Weekly Post).

PRINCESS MARTHA.

One of the prettiest princesses in Europe at the moment is Princess Martha, a niece of the King of Sweden, on the one side and of the King of Denmark on the other. She has been here for some time with her unmarried sister, Princess Astrid, and her married sister, Princess Axel of Denmark. Princess Margaret of Sweden was married some time ago to her cousin Prince Axel, and he is also of the Royal party who have been much in the company of the Queen of Norway and the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Sweden.

ACCOMPLISHED AND DOMESTIC.

Although nice-looking, Princess Astrid has not the bright beauty of her sister, but both are very accomplished and skilled in all housewifely arts. The father of the Royal girls is Charles Duke of Westrogothia, who married Princess Ingeborg of Denmark twenty-six years ago.

Cure that cough—take Stafford's Phoradone.—nov18,tt

Britain's Lucky Latitude

When we complain about our weather, few of us realize that, according to the rule of latitude, our islands should be almost Arctic in the severity of their climate.

If the latitude of London is followed across the Atlantic, where does it lead? To Labrador! Yet Labrador is usually regarded as an annex to the Arctic. Vast ice-floes block her coasts and shut out the rest of the world; dog teams take the place of other means of transport.

If, instead of following the latitude of London westward, it is followed eastward, you arrive in Russia, and, farther still, Siberia, where you can get an Arctic winter and a very brief summer. Siberia has, in fact, the worst winters on the planet, the average temperature for six months of the year being far below zero.

Even if we compare the latitude of London with the corresponding latitude in the southern hemisphere, we find that the Falkland Islands lie about as near the South Pole as Britain is to the North Pole. Yet winters in the Falkland Islands are a succession of fierce gales, heavy snowstorms, and thick fogs, and the frost is often terrible in its severity. So bad is the weather during five months of the year that no ships call at the islands.

Britain is a favoured land when its northerly position is considered, and has one of the world's best climates, thanks to the tempering influence of the Gulf Stream.

CONFEDERATION LIFE.—nov23,tt

What is an Acre?

In school table books, 5 1/2 yds. are called 1 rod, pole, or perch, and the square formed by this length, containing 30 1/4 sq. yds., is called 1 square rod, pole, or perch.

Surveyors object to this confusion of terms, and are agreed that the term pole should be used for lineal measure, and perch for square measure.

Originally land measure differed in various parts of the country, being governed by the custom of the particular locality. For instance, 3,650 sq. yds. made 1 Wiltshire acre; 4,900 made 1 Devonshire or Somerset acre; 5,760 made 1 Cornwall acre; 7,840 made 1 Lancashire acre; and 10,240 made 1 Cheshire or Staffordshire acre. Now, however, land measure for the whole of England is governed by law, 4,840 sq. yds. making 1 acre, as by an Act passed in 1835 all local or customary measures were abolished.

On old documents and plans the area of lands is given in customary acres, rods and perches. The standards of measurement in London for testing chains, rules and measuring rods are situated in the Guildhall and on the north side of Trafalgar Square, and may be used by the public.

Here is a delicious supper sandwich—buttered toast; WILSON'S CERTIFIED BACON fried crisp; thin slices of fried tomato; season to taste.

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Handedness and Eyedness

These are the terms applied to the predominant use of either right or left hand or eye. According to recent theory, if one is right-handed he is also right-eyed, and vice versa. There are puzzling exceptions, but in general the rule holds, we are told by the reviewer of a recent book on the subject by Beaufort S. Parsons, an American investigator. Mr. Parson develops a new theory of the origin of "handedness, which connects it directly with that of "eyedness." Says the reviewer, writing in The British Medical Journal (London):

"Plato believed that handedness was the result of nursing and early education, and many others have followed him. Sir Thomas Browne declared that handedness is 'the result of institution and not of nature.' Sir Geo. Murray Humphrey of Cambridge expressed the opinion that 'there is no anatomical reason for it with which we are acquainted,' and many others have accepted this position. Cunningham accepted the hereditary theory, and gave some examples to show that left-handedness is transmitted from parents to children. Professor Jordan of the University of Virginia, after collecting many pedigrees, concluded that the appearance of left-handedness is sporadic, and in general conforms to the Mendelian law of inheritance.

"Warlike theories have been propounded, and the necessity for protecting the heart with the left arm. More recent explanations have been sought in unequal blood supplies of the two cerebral hemispheres. Le Conte, without attempting to give a detailed explanation, simply expressed the opinion that 'People are right-handed because they are left-brained.' Humphrey hinted at the beginnings of a new theory in referring to the correspondence between hand and eye. Others worked out the idea into a theory of ocular dominance, and to this Mr. Parson appears to lean. He suggests that earliest man, like the highest apes, sighted laterally, with either eye as needed, and, like the simians, was ambidexterous; that the first unilateral sighting faculty, accompanied by handedness, developed with the manufacture and intelligent use of weapons, and that in the beginning it was without any marked general bias for either the right or left side. The biological ascendancy of right-eyedness and right-handedness, he thinks, came about subsequently through natural selection as a result of one or more new obscure causes, the more likely being the advantage that would accrue to the warrior who, as he faced his opponent, carried his spear or club in his right hand, and later a shield in his left. He thinks, too, that sun worship probably had much to do with fixing manual dexterity.

"The theory of unilateral sighting as the cause of handedness is, he says, susceptible of proof by a simple test. The eye that fixes a given object (under conditions that enable the observer to determine which eye is fixing) will give the 'eyedness and handedness' of the person under examination. He has devised an instrument for this purpose. But the test can be made without apparatus as follows. Double up one fist with the index finger pointing freely. Lift the fist above the head and imagine it to be a pistol. With both eyes open, fire the pistol forward at arm's length as tho to fire instantaneously at some distant object. Now rapidly shut first one eye and then the other, and note which eye is in line with both forefinger and object simultaneously. If it be the right eye, the subject is right-eyed and right-handed; if it be the left, the subject is left-eyed and left-handed.

"But, alas for the theory, there are many persons who are left-eyed—that is, in the majority of the tests the left eye is the fixing eye—yet they are without doubt pure right-handed without a trace of left-handedness in their childhood or in their family records. There can be scarcely an ophthalmic surgeon who has not seen patients who complain that they are bad shots, and in whom there is found left-eyedness. They are right-handed, and can only shoot from the right shoulder, whereas, for no discoverable reason, when both eyes are open in taking aim the left eye makes the choice. These cases are sheer puzzles for which no explanation can be found; certainly none of the conditions suggested by Mr. Parson meets this flaw in his argument."

Sprouting Logs for Holding River Banks

Sprouting poles of white willow constitute the binder for protecting the shores of lakes and streams in the method patented by O. S. Scheffele, an engineer of Waterloo County, Ontario. The long green poles are laid in shallow trenches, spaced about five feet apart along the banks, and it is found that each pole will quickly send up shoots at intervals of about two feet, the growth in a couple of months or so forming a dense protective shield against wave and wind action. The poles may be two to six inches through and from 20 to 35 feet long. Roots shoot into the soil in every direction, and in a surprisingly short time they transform the crumbling, shifting water edge into a dense matting that no flood can wash away. Where immediate checking of erosion is necessary, a temporary board fence may be built along the lower ends of the poles. Little willow cuttings have been long planted for holding threatened banks in place, but the new plan gives a stronger, broader and more substantial binding. The use of 80,000 lineal feet of willow poles is said to have ended a railway's struggle of years against a stream's encroachment.

Try Stafford's Phoradone for your cold or cough.—nov18,tt

Making Copper Conduct Better

An enormous tonnage of copper now used in electrical transmission may be released for other fields of industry, following the discovery that this metal may be transformed into a superconductor when crystallized in a peculiar way already described in these columns some time ago. The new discovery is announced by L. A. Hawkins, research expert of Schenectady, New York, in a statement of scientific progress in this sphere issued by the Engineering Foundation (New York). Laboratory experiments carried out by Dr. W. P. Davey of the General Electric Company prove that the conductivity of copper can be greatly increased. Commercial utility, however, has not yet been attained, and Dr. Davey's work is regarded by science as a "fantastic triumph," which promises to lead to industrial economy. Says the Foundation's statement:

"A small increase in the conductivity of commercial copper would have great value. An increase of even 10 per cent. would release for other fields an enormous tonnage of copper now used for transmitting power. The economic radius of all-existing transmission systems would be increased 10 per cent., increasing 21 per cent. the area served; or, the underground cable subways of cities, so many of which are taxed to capacity with their loads of to-day, could without enlargement carry additional loads of 10 per cent."

Possibilities of great scientific interest have been discussed by Dr. Davey's experiments, according to the Foundation. Dr. Davey found by calculations, based on the arrangement of the copper atoms which the X-rays revealed, that copper composed of a single crystal should have a conductivity of 14 per cent. greater than ordinary copper, greater even than that of silver. To quote further:

"The only known material with higher conductivity than copper is silver, a metal too costly to use in line wires. To check his calculations, Dr. Davey devised apparatus for producing large single crystals of copper.

"The single crystals were made by very gradual heating and cooling pure copper in an electric furnace. When molten metal is quickly cooled, very small crystals are formed; if the melt is cooled slowly, the crystals are larger.

"Dr. Davey cooled the melt so slowly that only one crystal was formed, and that included all of the metal. By this method, he was able to produce single crystals three-fourths of an inch in diameter and six inches long, and one that is fourteen inches long.

"The conductivity of these crystals was then measured, the measurements checking within one-quarter of one per cent. of the calculated value.

"In a crystal, the atoms—the unit particles of the substance—are built up in regular fashion. The crystals of copper, for example, are made up of very tiny cubes, with atoms of copper at the corners and centres of the faces of each unit.

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"The large crystals grow in such a direction that the atoms are arranged in columns along the length of the crystal. It is this regular arrangement of the atoms, which, it is believed, gives to the single crystals their superior conductivity when compared with ordinary copper, in which the crystals are small and the arrangement of these crystals quite chaotic.

"There is reason to believe that the conductivity of copper crystals along another axis from that measured may be even 60 per cent. greater than the value for pure copper, but the growth of single crystals along this other axis has not yet been brought under control.

"This newly discovered high conductivity has not yet been utilized commercially, as the single crystals are very delicate and difficult to manufacture.

"One of the first facts discovered about single-crystal copper was that the specimens could be bent double with one finger, but that strength was required to straighten them afterward.

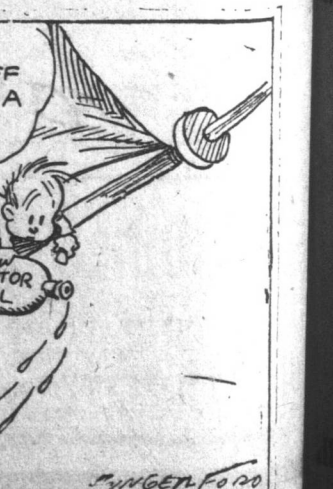
"A crystal of the size of a lead pencil, if given a jerking motion, bends like a stick of soft wax. Having been once bent, however, it acquires the properties of ordinary copper, for the bending has transformed the large crystal into a mass of smaller ones."

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